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# A bonanza for the Soviets

**"C**onspiratorial plots" and disarray in the White House have handed Soviet propagandists their biggest story in memory.

All aspects of the current Washington turmoil — involving secret arms shipments to Iran, the use of the money from the sales to help finance the anti-Communist Nicaraguan "contras," plotting in international affairs without the apparent knowledge of the president — were being zealously canvassed in the Soviet press last week.

One veteran student of Soviet propaganda remarked that "without a doubt, this unfolding story out of Washington tops Watergate or any other government embarrassment in memory. Moscow's propaganda chickens are coming home to roost."

Last week, *Pravda* and *Izvestia* were running long stories in which almost all of the perennial themes of anti-American Soviet propaganda during the past six years were now seen to intersect conveniently with the exposures presently coming out of Washington.

On its foreign-affairs pages, the Soviet press is cashing in on such long-standing propaganda lines as the alleged fact that:

- The U.S.-Israeli alliance is directed against Arab and Islamic interests and serves the "military-industrial complex of the U.S.A."

*Pravda's* cartoon on Nov. 20 shows a hook-nosed foreign agent, whose hat is labeled "U.S.," about to insert a key labeled "arms shipments" into a keyhole, "Iran," in which a vista of Iranian oil fields may be seen. Soviet propaganda has long insisted that the United States and Israel seek to lay hands on the Arab "treasure trove" of Middle Eastern oil.

- A hot-headed, adventurist "cow-boy" braintrust "manipulates" President Reagan. In the aftermath of the Reykjavik summit, the president has been portrayed in the Soviet press as the "dupe" of others, who manipulate him behind the scenes.

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The principal behind-the-throne force, *Pravda* told its readers on Nov. 17 in a long, half-page analysis, is "American military-industrial big business. . . . The departing president D. Eisenhower warned Americans against 'the uncontrolled influence of the military-industrial complex . . .'"

"The Pentagon ruling summit is directly linked to the military-industrial complex . . . the latter is overstrained to meet all the demands placed on it by the present administration."

*Pravda*, as is its custom, omitted the several succeeding sentences in Mr. Eisenhower's 1961 farewell address. These sentences customarily are ignored as well in liberal and left-wing accounts of what Mr. Eisenhower said.

In them, Mr. Eisenhower said he advocated a strong U.S. defense, based on the American defense industry, which he complimented, and whose strength, he said, is necessary to meet the growing Soviet military threat as represented, e.g., by Sputnik and long-range rockets.

- The United States seeks to violate Iran's sovereignty. It is plotting against the "Iranian revolution." This in turn is construed in the most recent Soviet press items none too subtly to involve the invoking of the Soviet-Iranian Treaty of 1921. The current "Soviet Military Encyclopedia" (SVE), Vol. 7, describes Moscow's understanding of this treaty.

According to SVE, Article 2 of the 1921 treaty stipulates that "attempts by third countries [besides Iran and the Soviet Union] to realize an interventionist policy with respect to Iranian territory or to convert it into a base for military intrusions against the Soviet Union [gives] . . . the Soviet Union the right to send its own troops into Iran 'in the interests of self-defense, and to adopt necessary military measures.'"

Plans for such intervention against Iran, *Pravda* says, have now

been "exposed" by the secret arms shipments, with Israel's help. The Nov. 20 issue of *Pravda* stated: "Washington seeks to drag out the Iran-Iraq war in order to gain control of Middle East oil. . . . As *The New York Times* noted, 'There have never, in the history of American foreign policy going back 25 years, been so many statements . . . evoking so many surprises as there are now.' . . . To realize its global plans, Washington is treating other states' sovereignty like pawns on a chessboard."

Anti-Sovietism "is so blinding the eyes of Washington officials that they are saying that the furthest aims of America in the Middle East region dictate a policy of helping Iran remain independent of the Soviet Union."

- The Nicaraguan "contras" are "bandits," *Pravda* has been saying regularly for years. They are secretly funded by the CIA and the American military-industrial complex.

A front-page "Statement of the Soviet Union," published on Nov. 17, warned the Reagan administration about any continued "open interference in the affairs of Nicaragua . . . and realizing its aim of overthrowing the legal government of this sovereign, independent country."

The Soviet Union "once again declares its firm solidarity with the just cause of the Nicaraguan people, the readiness as before to send aid to Nicaragua and lend support in its struggle for freedom and independence."

Communist Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega warned publicly [last Wednesday] that Managua will submit a protest, presumably to the World Court and to the United Nations General Assembly, against the "illegal" American subsidization of arms destined for the anti-Communist "contras." The Soviet press has quoted the Ortega statement and is running articles about the purported use of the Iranian sales funds to subsidize arms for the "contras."